

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:VDC
APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH
ANALYST NOTE MSG HAS BEEN PROCESSED. RE-ENTRY FOR INVALID ROUTER
ONLY

-----080901Z 068706 /21/50

R 031834Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
GOVGUAM
TREASURY

UNCLAS STATE 047232

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 3 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

WORLD BANK REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT SRV IS SEEKING INTL
ASSISTANCE TO HELP AGRIC/MINING/IRRIGATION/RR PROJECTS.
REPORTING ON JUST-CONCLUDED 4-WK ECON MISSION TO VN, BANK
SAID REQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED BY IDA (REUTER 3/2; UPI 3/2;
WSJ). WP'S ROWEN REPORTS BANK SOURCES PRIVATELY IT IS CLEAR
THAT OUTLOOK FOR SRV LOAN IS GOOD; SAYS ONE "VERY PRE-
LIMINARY" GUESS BY BANK OFFICIAL IS THAT LOAN IN 100-200
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MIL-DOL RANGE OVER 2-3 YRS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. ROWEN
OBSERVES VIET OFFICIALS IN PRESS RELEASE--"ITSELF AN INDICA-
TION" OF POSITIVE BANK REACTION--WERE QUOTED AS CONSIDERING
THEIR COUNTRY PART OF EXPANDING INTL TRADING SYSTEM.

"AIR SIAM" SAID WEDNESDAY IT HAS DISMISSED ALL 700 EMPLOYEES,
FOLLOWING RTG'S 2/3 REVOCATION OF FINANCIALLY TROUBLED AIR-
LINE'S OPERATING LICENSE (REUTER BANGKOK 3/2).

2. REFUGEES

ADDRESSING FIRST STATEWIDE CALIF CONVENTION OF "VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY INC.," FEDERAL REFUGEE PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR JOHN WHITE SAID US HAS PROVEN LAND OF OPPORTUNITY FOR VN REFUGEES, WITH NEARLY 70 OF THOSE WHO CAME HERE IN 1975 HAVING FOUND JOBS. WHITE PRAISED VIETS' HIGH EMPLOYMENT RATE AND THEIR "REMARKABLY GOOD ADJUSTMENT" TO NEW WAY OF LIFE; ADDED THAT REFUGEES' ABILITY FIND JOBS COMES FROM THEIR SUPERIOR EDUCATION (CHI SUN TIMES 2/28).

UNHCR ANNOUNCED THURS APPEAL FOR 12.3 MIL DOLLARS TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE FOR ABOUT 77,000 INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN THAILAND (REUTER BANGKOK).

3. CHINA

AFP (PEKING) REPORTS FIAT TEAM IS IN PRC FOR TALKS (WP).

IN HK, LAT'S LESLIE (3/2) REPORTS THAT DESPITE OCT PURGE OF "GANG OF FOUR," DISRUPTION OF PRC'S RAILWAY SYSTEM CONTINUES. NOTES ANALYSTS SAY TROUBLE COULD RESULT FROM DISGRUNTLED WORKERS OR BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED; CITES EFFORTS OF LEADERSHIP TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.

ACCORDING REUTER (HK), NCNA REVEALS 2,000-YEAR-OLD SHIP-BUILDING SITE HAS BEEN FOUND IN CANTON.

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ROC EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR (FRANK TAO) REFUTES ALLEGATIONS IN MRS. HUEI-MEI D. HSU'S LETTER ON CONDITIONS IN TAIWAN (CARRIED IN BALTIMORE'S 2/3 "VOICE OF PEOPLE" COLUMN). TAO MAINTAINS THERE ARE "NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TAIWAN, AND THAT OF THOSE CONVICTED OF SEDITION SINCE 1949, ONLY 254 STILL ARE SERVING PRISON TERMS." ADDS THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD, LAST BEING DECEMBER '75; MANY TAIWAN-BORN HOLD HIGH GOVT POSITIONS. STRESSES THAT HSU IS MEMBER OF "TAIWANESE RIGHTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION" ORGANIZED BY "TAIWANESE MALCONTENTS" LIVING IN US.

4. JAPAN

LOCKHEED TRIAL CONTINUES IN 3RD SESSION 3/2. TWO PROSECUTION WITNESSES CALLED IN AGAINST DEFENDENT TANAKA, GAVE 5 HRS TESTIMONY. FORMER TRANSPORT MIN HAS BEEN INDICTED/ NOW ON TRIAL FOR ACCEPTING BRIBE IN EXCHANGE FOR ISSUING PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS FAVORABLE TO LOCKHEED (SUN'S TAKAYAMA, TOKYO).

OREGON-BASED GILMORE STEEL CO HAS CHARGED 5 JAPANESE MFERS W/DUMPING STEEL ON US MARKET. COMPLAINT LODGED TREAS SAYS ALLEGED DUMPING "FAR MORE FLAGRANT" THAN IN PAST/HAS BADLY DAMAGED LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT. GILMORE CLAIMS OVER 150,000 TONS STEELPLATE HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO NW US

MARKETS AT DRASTICALLY LOWER PRICES, ENABLING JAPANESE CAPTURE NEARLY HALF NW'S MARKET (REUTER 3/2).

LETTERS OF CREDIT--KEY INDICATOR OF EXPORT TRENDS 5-6 MONTHS AHEAD--CONTINUE GROW FOR JAPANESE EXPORTS. FEB FIGURES UP 13 PCT OVER LAST YR (UPI, JOC).

5. PHILIPPINES

WIDEMAN (WP) REPORTS TRIAL 10 RC PRIESTS/1 NUN/197 LAY UNCLASSIFIED

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CHURCH WORKERS, ON CHARGES AIDING CP, HAS HEIGHTENED HOSTILITY BETW CHURCH-GOP. DEFENDANTS, INCL 2 US PRIESTS, BEING TRIED IN MIL COURT DAVAO. MIL SPOKESMAN WOULD NOT ELABORATE, BUT SAID CASE BASED ON AFFIDAVIT BY FORMER PHIL CP MEMBER, ALLEGING MILLIONS IN CASH/MATERIAL HAS FLOWED TO COMMUNISTS THRU CHURCH CHANNELS. AFFIDAVIT CHARGES FUNDS COME FROM 7 NATIONS, INCL US FIL COMMUNITY.

6. AUSTRALIA

DOS DENIES VISA TO AUSSIE COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER MUNDEY, WHO WAS ADMITTED TO US IN FINAL MONTHS FORD ADMIN. DOS OFFICIALS SAID WED VISA DENIED BECAUSE MUNDEY'S ITINERARY INCLUDED TALKS W/SOME LABOR GROUPS, WHICH RUNS CONTRARY LONG-STANDING DOS RULE. OFFICIALS SAYD THEY KNEW OF NO SPECIFIC PROTEST BY AFL-CIO TO VISA REQUEST; BUT ONE OFFICIAL SAID DOS AWARE OF "ATTITUDES OF THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN LABOR" TAKES THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN REVIEWING VISA REQUESTS (DEWAR, WP).

7. MALAYSIA

GOM HAS ASKED NY'S MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST RAISE 100 MIL DOLS FOR GENRALDEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. MORGAN WILL SEEK PUT TOGETHER BANK SYNDICATE TO LEND MONEY FOR 7-YR PERIOD (WSJ, HK).

8. SOLOMON ISLANDS

SOLOMON ISLANDS LEGISLATURE APPROVES OUTLINE DRAFT CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR TRANSITION FROM CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY UNDER UK TO INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC. ISLANDS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME REPUBLIC AFTER 1 YR UNLESS ITS PARLIAMENT BLOCKED MOVE BY 2/3 VOTE; DRAFT TO BE DISCUSSED W/UK IN FORTHCOMING INDEPENDENCE TALKS (REUTER KONIARA).

9. KOREA

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SUN'S SEIDEN (SEOUL) REPORTS SK'S ANTI-GOVT LEADERS HOPING CARTER ADMIN WILL PUT PRESSURE ON PARK REGIME EASE VIRTUAL BAN ON POL DISSENT. QUOTES MRS KIM DAE-JUNG THAT CARTER COULD HELP HUMAN RTS CAUSE IF HE WROTE IMPRISONED HUSBAND, AS HE DID SOV DISSIDENT SAKHAROV. MRS KIM SAYS HUSBAND NOT ALLOWED WRITE ANYONE, SHE/OTHER DISSIDENTS FEAR ARREST IF THEY WRITE PRES. SOME DISSIDENTS FEEL GOVT HARASSMENT HAS STEPPED UP SINCE CARTER'S INAUGURATION. SEIDEN REMARKS SK OPPOSITION LEADERS NOW MAKING FREQUENT TRIPS TO JAPAN/US, ARGUING AGAINST TROOP WITHDRAWAL/DEFENDING SK'S POL REPRESSION.

JUSTICE DEPT SOURCE TELLS WSTAR'S OPPENHEIMER (3/2) THAT UNLESS ENOUGH HARD EVIDENCE BRIBERY/EXTORTION INVOLVING PRESENT/FORMER CONGRESSMEN CAN BE DELIVERED WITHIN 30-90 DAYS, PROSECUTORS MAY RECOMMEND TO ATTY GEN BELL THAT CASE BE DEFERRED TO CONGRESSIONAL CMTE FOR INVESTIGATION. SOURCE SAYS REVIEW EVIDENCE THUS FAR SHOWS "MINIMAL PROSPECT" FOR "LEGALLY ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE." AMONG PROBLEMS CITED ARE ABSENCE KEY FIGURE TONGSUN PARK, UNCERTAINTY OVER CIA/NSA COOPERATION, INADMISSIBILITY EVIDENCE FROM TAPPED CONVERSATIONS W/PRES PARK IN SEOUL, ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING INFLUENCE-BUYING SCHEME.

HOUSE ADMIN CMTE WEDNESDAY APPROVED 300,000-DOL BUDGET FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY US-SK RELS. BUDGET EXPECTED GET FINAL HOUSE APPROVAL NEXT WEEK (WP'S BABCOCK).

10. FOREIGN SECURITY ASSISTANCE

CARTER ADMIN WEDNESDAY PRESENTED CONGRESS 2.5-BILL-DOL MIL AID PROGRAM. WP'S LEXCAZE NOTES PROPOSALS LITTLE CHANGED FROM WHAT FORD ADMIN HAD PLANNED. NOTES VANCE TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE FORN OPS SUBCMTE. CITES DOS OFFICIALS SAYING REDUCED ROC AID PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO TAIPEI'S INCREASING UNCLASSIFIED

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ABILITY FINANCE ITS OWN DEFENSE, AND IS ALSO CONNECTED WITH US DESIRE IMPROVE RELS WITH PRC.

TREWHITT (SUN) SAYS CARTER PROGRAM REDUCED ONLY SLIGHTLY BY PENALTIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. NOTES SUBCMTE MEMBERS BROUGHT UP REPORTED HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SK AND OTHER PLACES; AND VANCE AGAIN CONCEDED STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS CAUSED US LEAVE SK MIL AID UNCHANGED AT 280-MIL-DOLS NEXT YEAR.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS

BLUMENTHAL TOLD SENATE APPROPRIATIONS CMTE 3/2 US WOULD NOT WITHHOLD CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INTL DEVELOPMENT BANKS EVEN THO THEY LEND MONEY TO COUNTRIES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN

RTS. TREAS SEC INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE UNDER CARTER ADMIN IN US VIEW THAT ECON RATHER THAN POL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE GUIDE IN ASSESSING WHETHER US SHOULD VOTE IN FAVOR LOANS MADE BY SUCH INSTITUTION BUT DID SAY THAT SUCH BANKS' US DIRECTORS WOULD BE INSTRUCTED SHOW DISAPPROVAL HUMAN RTS PRACTICES BY INDICATING "LEVEL OF OUR ENTHUSIASM ON LOANS TO COUNTRIES WHERE VIOLATIONS OCCURRED" (REUTER 3/2).

COMMENT AND ALYSIS

12. JAPAN

WIEDRICH (CHITRIB 3/3) CLAIMS DOJ LETTER SEN KENNEDY RECEIVED IN REPLY HIS CHARGES THAT JAPANESE TV MFRS HAVE BEEN DUMPING ON US MARKET IS "COP-OUT" WHICH SHOULD "FULLY JUSTIFY" CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION USG'S FAILURE "CRACK DOWN ON UNLAWFUL JAPANESE TRADE PRACTICES." QUOTES ZENITH CHRMN NEVIN THAT DOJ'S NON-PROSECUTION "FOREIGN CARTEL" WHICH VIOLATES US LAWS "OUTRAGEOUS." WIEDRICH CLAIMS 60,000 NOW OUT OF JOBS DUE JAPANESE TV INDUSTRY-- UNCLASSIFIED

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SOMETHING, HE SAYS, THAT DESERVES MORE THAN "CAVALIER KISS-OFF OR COP-OUT" FROM THEIR GOVT.

13. KOREA

SAFIRE (NYT) KNOCKS PRES' CHOICE BEN CIVILETTI AS DOJ CRIMINAL DIVISION CHIEF, CLAIMING HIS PRESIDING OVER KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL MARKS "CARTER'S FIRST COVERUP." NOTES CIVILETTI HARDLY "NONPOLITICAL," SINCE WAS RECOMMENDED TO ATTY GEN BELL BY BELL'S FORMER LAW PARTNER, CHARLES KIRBO. SAFIRE SAYS PRES DESIRES INQUIRY BE HANDED OVER TO CONGRESS, W/"GENTLE SUGGESTION" FROM CRIMINAL DIVISION THAT CONGRESS DO OWN HOUSECLEANING. SEES REASONING POLITICAL: THOROUGH HOUSE PROBE, DONE BY DOJ, WOULD ALIENATE MANY CONGRESSMEN, INCL "MOST VOCIFEROUSLY" SPEAKER O'NEILL, THEREBY JEOPARDIZING CARTER'S PROGRAMS. "QUASHING" PROBE, SAYS SAFIRE, "WOULD GENERATE AT LEAST FORTY BIG I.O.U.'S."

IN WSTAR 3/2, SAFIRE IMPLIES BELL'S STATEMENT, THAT HE EXPECTS SUBORDINATES "FISH OR CUT BAIT" ON KOREAN SCANDAL BY MID-APRIL, IN EFFECT ORDERS CASE BE DROPPED, SINCE VOLUMINOUS PERTINENT MATERIAL CANNOT BE ANALYZED BY THEN. BE-

LIEVES DOJ DROPPING CASE WOULD "ENSURE A LIVELY RESPECT" FOR PRES' PROGRAMS IN HOUSE." ADVOCATES SENATE JUDICIARY CMTE NOT CONFIRM CIVILETTI IN ORDER ALLOW NON-PARTISAN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION W/O FEAR "COVER-UP."

14. INDOCHINA

LAT (3/2) FINDS WOODCOCK GROUP'S HANOI TRIP "WORTHWHILE."
SPECULATES SRV'S ACCEPTANCE OF MISSION COULD SIGNAL BREAK
IN MIA ISSUE IMPASSE. ENDORSES INDICATIONS CARTER ADMIN
"FLEXIBILITY," THAT IT APPEARS LESS INCLINED THAN PRE-
DECESSOR IN MAKING MIA ISSUE CORNERSTONE OF RELS WITH
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HANOI.

IN HAIPHONG, REUTER'S SURESH FINDS CITY BUSTLING AGAIN,
THO SCARS OF VN WAR STILL CLEARLY VISIBLE. PORT FACILI-
TIES RESTORED SOVIET INFLUENCE PERVASIVE (CSM).

IN WP OP ED, DAO VAN QUANG (FORMER "SIAGON ASSN OF
BUILDERS" SEC-GEN) SKETCHES DREAM OF EVERLASTING PEACE FOR
VN AND FRUITFUL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AMERICANS/VIETS--WHICH
NECESSARY TO OFFSET 10 CENTURIES CHINESE "GENOCIDAL DOMI-
NATION IMPOSED UPON OUR ANCESTORS."

15. GENERAL

ROCHE (BALT NA 3/2) CITES LIST OF WORLD STATESMEN WHO
REPORTEDLY WERE "FINANCIAL DEPENDENTS" OF CIA. RECALLS
HAVING HAD IMPRESSION IN 1966 SAIGON THAT IN CIA VN
OPERATIONS "THE LOCALS WERE ROLLING THE RICHEST, DUMBEST
VISITING DRUNK IN TOWN." WITHOUT CIA PAYOFFS, DOUBTS
DIEM WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE INTRANSIGENT; CKS WOULD NOT HAVE
RUSHED TO PEKING TO PRESENT MAO WITH TAIWAN; MAGSAYSAY
WOULD NOT HAVE EXTRACTED PHILS FROM "FREE WORLD" AND
CREATED HUK REGIME. CONCLUDES THAT IN CIA'S OPERATION
IN THESE AREAS THERE WAS ONLY ENCOUNTER BETWEEN 2 BRANDS
OF CUPIDITY, FOR WHICH US PUBLIC SEEMINGLY PICKED UP TAB.

16. ADD NEWS - GENERAL

US CAB WEDNESDAY RECOMMENDED THAT CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS
BE GIVEN FORN AIR CARRIER PERMIT FOR ROUTE BETWEEN HK/
MANILA/PHILS/GUAM. RECOMMENDATION MUST BE APPROVED BY
PRES CARTER BEFORE PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED (REUTER 3/2).
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: ADS
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Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:VDC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703111/baaaeviy.tel
Line Count: 318
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: e6a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2964320
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 3 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6a101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009